Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claim Status

Claims 3-9 and 13-23 are pending. Claims 9 and 21-23 are amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 101

Claims 9 and 21-23 are rejected under 35 USC 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. In response, claims 9 and 21-23 are amended to comply with 35 USC 101. In particular, claims 9 and 21-23 now clearly require a computer readable recording medium *embodied in a tangible physical object*.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 3-9 and 13-23 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Baba (US 5,987,129) in view of Matyas (US 4,736,423). In response, applicant asserts that claims 3-9 and 13-23 distinguish over Baba in view of Matyas.

The present invention is directed to a cryptographic communications between a plurality of centers and entities. Each center divides entity specifying information into a plurality of portions and generates secret keys for each portion of divided specifying information for each entity. See Specification, page 8, lines 8-14. Centers are deployed in plurality, and these centers generate a plurality of secret keys corresponding to a plurality of units (portions or pieces) of entity ID information, respectively. Each center generates a secret key for a particular (divided) segment of entity ID information. See Specification, page 42, lines 9-19. Moreover, entity ID information is divided into a plurality of segments or pieces and a plurality of centers are established for these entity ID information segments, respectively, such that each of the centers generates a particular key for a particular piece of entity ID information. As a result, no single center can hold or grasp all of the entity secrets. See Specification, page 44, lines 1-15.

Independent claims 3-4, 8, 13, 17 and 20 require a plurality of centers that each divide entity specifying information into a plurality of portions and generates

secret keys for each portion of divided specifying information for each entity, which is neither disclosed nor fairly suggest by Baba.

Independent claims 1, 9, 14-15, 19 and 21-23 require secret keys peculiar to each respective entity produced for respective pieces of information resulting from division of information specifying each of said respective entities, which is neither disclosed nor fairly suggest by Baba.

In contrast, Baba generates a secret private key peculiar to each of the entities by transforming an identifier that is peculiar to each of the entities. See Baba, Col. 2, lines 45-67. The single center of Baba transforms the whole identifier of each entity with an integral transformation algorithm, such as a Fourier Transformation, a Fast Fourier Transformation, a Laplace transformation, a Miller transformation, a Hilbert transformation, or the like. See Baba, Col. 3, lines 47-50. None of these transforms used by Baba divides entity specifying information (single identifier of Baba) into a plurality of portions so that secret keys can be generated for each portion of divided specifying information for each entity as disclosed by the present invention. Moreover, Baba fails to disclose providing a plurality of centers (Baba only has one center), each of which generates secret keys peculiar to the entities using divided pieces of information resulting from division of information specifying each of the entities.

The Action asserts that Baba in view of Matyas teaches Applicant's claimed features of the present invention, but fails to point out where exactly in Baba or Matyas these features are taught. Applicant requests that the Examiner support his findings with direct quotes from the disclosures of Baba and Matyas. Applicant maintains that Baba does not disclose or suggest each and every important feature of the present invention, and Matyas does not remedy the deficiencies of Baba.

Therefore, since Baba and Matyas do not disclose or suggest each and every element of claims 3-4, 7-9, 13-15, 17 and 19-23, including claims dependent thereon, they cannot render obvious these claims or claims dependent thereon. Accordingly, the rejections under 35 USC 103 should be withdrawn.

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Appl. No. 09/489,696 Amdt. dated September 6, 2005 Reply to Office Action of June 9, 2005



Conclusion

This application is now believed to be in form for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted, HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

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